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P.O. Box 2981  
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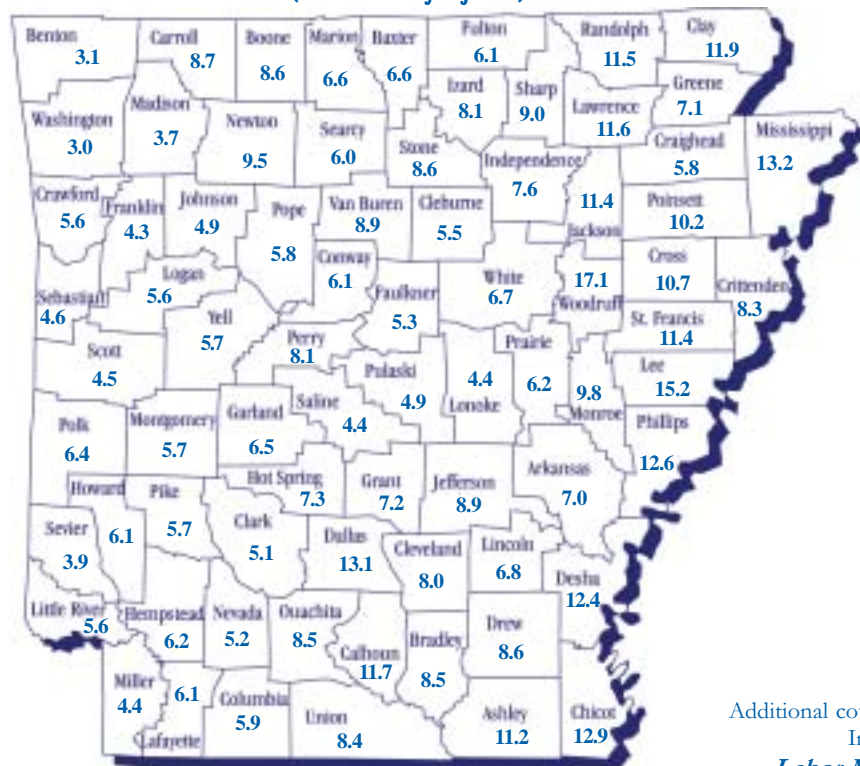
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### Arkansas Unemployment Rates by County January 2004 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Mike Huckabee - Governor  
State of Arkansas

Sandra Winston - Executive Director  
Arkansas Workforce Investment Board

*Labor Market Trends* is a publication of the Bureau of Labor Statistics Programs Section of the Arkansas Workforce Investment Board. This newsletter is published in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Department of Labor.

■ A comparison of unemployment rates in Arkansas since January 2003, showed lower rates this year in 50 of the 75 counties. Twenty-four counties had higher rates, while Grant County had a rate of 7.2 percent for both years.

■ Unemployment rates in Arkansas ranged from a low of 3.0 percent in Washington County to a high of 17.1 percent in Woodruff County. Four counties had rates below 4.0 percent, while 16 counties had rates above 10.0 percent in January.

Additional county statistics are available from the Arkansas Workforce Investment Board in the monthly publication,  
*Labor Market Information for Arkansas Counties.*

# Arkansas Labor Market Trends



## January 2004

### Seasonal Reductions Lower Arkansas' Nonfarm Total

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment (not seasonally adjusted) was down 23,200 from December to 1,130,300 in January. The decline was expected, as seasonal lay-offs occurred throughout the eleven major sectors. The largest job declines occurred in **trade-transportation-utilities, government, and leisure-hospitality**.

**Trade, transportation, and utilities** jobs decreased 8,400 to 238,300 in January. The majority of the loss was in retail trade and reflected the release of temporary workers hired for the holiday shopping season.

Jobs in **government** totaled 198,600, a loss of 3,800. Student workers at educational facilities remained on semester break, contributing to this employment decline.

A seasonal downturn occurred in **leisure and hospitality** between December and January. The sector had 3,100 fewer jobs. Reductions were noted in recreational, accommodation and food services.

**Manufacturing** employment declined 1,800 between months to 203,700. Layoffs and closings resulted in declines of 1,400 jobs in durable goods and 400 jobs in nondurable goods.

**Professional and business services** employment totaled 100,600 in January, a drop of 1,700. Administrative and support services, particularly employment services, accounted for the loss in jobs.

Employment in the **construction** sector dropped 1,600 in January, to stand at 48,100. This seasonal slowdown was noted in all construction sub-sectors: "construction of buildings" (-400), "heavy construction" (-500), and "specialty trade contractors" (-700).

The **education and health services** sector trimmed its payroll by 1,500 jobs, to 140,900. Losses were noted in both private education and health services.

A seasonal job loss of 400 in **financial activities** was traced to a slowdown in real estate.

**Other services** had 40,100 workers in January, a seasonal downturn of 400.

Employment within **natural resources and mining** declined 300, and a reduction of 200 jobs occurred in the **information** sector.

Continued on page 2



## Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

North American Industry Classification	January 04	December 03	January 03
Total Nonfarm	1,130,300	1,153,500	1,128,700
Goods Producing	258,400	262,100	265,200
<b>Natural Resources &amp; Mining</b>	<b>6,600</b>	<b>6,900</b>	<b>6,500</b>
Mining	3,500	3,600	3,500
<b>Construction</b>	<b>48,100</b>	<b>49,700</b>	<b>49,300</b>
Construction of Buildings	10,800	11,200	10,900
Heavy & Civil Engineering Construction	9,800	10,300	11,000
Specialty Trade Contractors	27,500	28,200	27,400
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>203,700</b>	<b>205,500</b>	<b>209,400</b>
Durable Goods	107,300	108,700	111,500
Wood Products	14,000	14,200	14,000
Primary Metals	7,900	7,900	8,300
Fabricated Metals	17,700	17,900	17,900
Machinery	14,000	14,100	15,000
Computer & Electronic Products	5,900	6,100	6,100
Electrical Equipment	13,100	13,200	13,300
Transportation Equipment	15,600	15,700	15,700
Furniture & Related Products	7,900	8,000	9,100
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	6,700	6,800	7,400
Nondurable Goods	96,400	96,800	97,900
Food	52,700	52,800	52,600
Paper & Printing	17,200	17,200	17,500
Plastics & Rubber Products	13,200	13,300	13,800
Service Providing	871,900	891,400	863,500
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>238,300</b>	<b>246,700</b>	<b>236,200</b>
Wholesale Trade	43,800	44,500	43,900
Retail Trade	128,700	135,200	127,100
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	17,500	17,600	17,100
General Merchandise Stores	34,700	37,500	33,300
Department Stores	10,400	11,600	10,500
Transportation, Warehouse, & Utilities	65,800	67,000	65,200
Utilities	6,700	6,700	6,800
Transportation & Warehousing	59,100	60,300	58,400
Truck Transportation	34,600	34,600	33,300
Warehousing & Storage	10,100	10,400	9,700
<b>Information</b>	<b>20,100</b>	<b>20,300</b>	<b>20,100</b>
Publishing Industries	6,200	6,400	6,300
Telecommunications	8,700	8,800	8,700
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>50,300</b>	<b>50,700</b>	<b>49,400</b>
Finance & Insurance	37,900	37,900	37,100
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	12,400	12,800	12,300
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>100,600</b>	<b>102,300</b>	<b>101,000</b>
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	30,800	30,400	31,200
Management of Companies	23,800	23,800	23,100
Administrative & Support Services	46,000	48,100	46,700
Employment Services	20,400	21,900	21,300
<b>Education &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>140,900</b>	<b>142,400</b>	<b>137,300</b>
Educational Services	11,700	12,400	11,700
Health Care & Social Assistance	129,200	130,000	125,600
Ambulatory Health Care	39,200	39,600	37,800
Hospitals	41,800	41,800	41,000
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	25,400	25,600	25,000
Social Assistance	22,800	23,000	21,800
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>83,000</b>	<b>86,100</b>	<b>82,600</b>
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	7,500	8,000	7,400
Accommodation & Food Services	75,500	78,100	75,200
Accommodation Services	9,600	10,200	9,200
Food Services	65,900	67,900	66,000
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>40,100</b>	<b>40,500</b>	<b>40,200</b>
Automotive Repair	7,300	7,300	7,200
<b>Government</b>	<b>198,600</b>	<b>202,400</b>	<b>196,700</b>
Federal Government	20,900	21,200	20,800
State Government	64,800	67,200	64,000
Local Government	112,900	114,000	111,900

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Nonfarm - *Continued from Page 1*

Over the year, nonfarm payroll employment in Arkansas advanced 1,600. Service providing industries gained 8,400 additional jobs, while goods producing industries lost 6,800 jobs.

Employment in **education and health services** rose 3,600 over the year. Health care and social assistance facilities accounted for the growth.

The **trade, transportation and utilities** sector added 2,100 jobs. Increased hiring in truck transportation and at general merchandise stores was largely responsible for the growth.

**Government**, which includes federal, state and local agencies, as well as educational facilities, has added 1,900 positions since January 2003.

Led by advances at finance and insurance companies, the number of workers in the **financial activities** sector rose 900 over the year.

Compared to the previous year, employment in **leisure and hospitality** advanced 400. Hiring in the accommodations segment accounted for most of the gain.

The employment count in **natural resources and mining** was up 100.

**Manufacturing** industries have lost 5,700 (-2.7 percent) jobs since January 2003, following a downward trend seen nationwide. Durable goods accounted for 4,200 of this loss and nondurable goods made up 1,500. The largest loss (-1,200) was in the furniture and related products industry.

**Construction** employment fell by 1,200 positions. “Heavy construction” accounted for the loss. The completion of large projects triggered cutbacks in the heavy construction segment.

Employment in the **professional and business services** sector was down 400 over the year.

The employment count in the **information** sector was unchanged, and jobs in **other services** declined 100.

ANNUAL REVISION

Estimates of nonfarm payroll employment and hours and earnings for 2002 and 2003 have been adjusted to new levels indicated by first quarter 2003 Current Employment Statistics (CES) benchmarks.

Labor Force estimates for 1990 through 2003 are being revised to incorporate benchmarked nonfarm payroll levels and to adjust to updated employment and unemployment figures from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Data for 2003 in this issue of *Arkansas Labor Market Trends* reflect these changes.

Tables containing the revised monthly and annual average figures from 1990 forward will be available after May 2004 (by request) from Arkansas Workforce Information Analysis and Reporting, Bureau of Labor Statistics Programs Section, P. O. Box 2981, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-2981, (501) 682-3198. The data will also be posted on our website:

[www.accessarkansas.org/esd/LaborMarketInfo/AESD\\_labormarketinfo.htm](http://www.accessarkansas.org/esd/LaborMarketInfo/AESD_labormarketinfo.htm)

Consumer Price Index for the United States: January 2004

1982-1984=100 Base					
Percent Change Since:					
	Jan. 04	Dec. 03	Jan. 03	Dec. 03	Jan. 03
All Urban Consumers	185.2	184.3	181.7	+ 0.5	+ 1.9
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers	180.9	179.9	177.7	+ 0.6	+ 1.8

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Hours & Earnings of Production Workers in Manufacturing Industries - State of Arkansas

NAICS Industry	Average Weekly Earnings		Average Weekly Hours		Average Hourly Earnings		Jan. 2004	Dec. 2003	Jan. 2003
	Jan. 2004	Dec. 2003	Jan. 2004	Dec. 2003	Jan. 2004	Dec. 2003			
Manufacturing	\$535.16	\$540.55	\$531.58	39.7	40.4	39.7	\$13.48	\$13.38	\$13.39
Durable Goods	550.65	567.01	518.36	40.4	41.6	39.6	13.63	13.63	13.09
Wood Products	579.18	601.09	555.82	42.0	43.4	43.8	13.79	13.85	12.69
Fabricated Metals	543.91	559.71	549.40	39.3	40.5	41.0	13.84	13.82	13.40
Nondurable Goods	519.48	512.21	546.06	39.0	39.1	39.8	13.32	13.10	13.72
Food	394.63	401.45	447.70	37.8	38.9	39.1	10.44	10.32	11.45

Technical Notes

“Labor Market Trends” is prepared monthly in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The current month's estimates are preliminary, while all previous data are subject to revision.

Estimates of nonfarm payroll jobs show the number of jobs by industry and reflect employment by place of work.

Hours and earnings estimates are based on payroll and worker-hour data collected for production workers in manufacturing industries.

Industries are classified according to the North American Industry Classification System.

All estimates are based on a first quarter 2003 benchmark.

Explanation of Terms and Concepts

**Monthly Business Survey of Employers** - A monthly sample survey designed to provide industry information on nonfarm payroll jobs. Data are compiled each month from mail questionnaires and telephone interviews by the Arkansas Workforce Investment Board in cooperation with BLS. The data are based on establishment records and include all workers, full- or part-time, who received pay during the payroll period which includes the 12th of the month. Approximately 4,000 business establishments are included in the Arkansas survey.

**Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)** - A term applied by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget to counties that have one or more central cities and that meet specified criteria of population density, commuting patterns and social and economic integration.

**Current Population Survey (CPS)**- A monthly sample survey of the population 16 years of age and over, designed to provide data on the labor force, the employed and the unemployed. The survey is conducted each month by the Bureau of the Census for BLS. The information is col-

lected by trained interviewers from a sample of about 50,000 households. The data collected are based on the activity reported for the calendar week including the 12th of the month. A total of 871 Arkansas households are represented in the sample survey.

**Civilian Labor Force** - The sum of all employed and unemployed persons 16 years of age or older. Members of the Armed Forces are excluded.

**Employment** - An estimate of the number of persons who worked any time for pay or profit or worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers in a family business during the calendar week which includes the 12th of the month. Also included are those who, although not working, had some job attachment and were not looking for work, and persons involved in labor management disputes.

**Unemployment** - An estimate of the number of persons who did not have a job, but were available for work and actively seeking work during the calendar week which includes the 12th of the month.

**Unemployment Rate** - The number of unemployed as a percentage of the civilian labor force.

**Seasonal Adjustment** - A statistical technique applied to monthly data to eliminate changes that normally occur during the year due to such seasonal events as changes in the weather, major holidays, shifts in production schedules, harvest times, and the opening and closing of schools.

**Consumer Price Index (CPI)** - A measure of the average change in prices over time of a fixed market basket of goods and services. It is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, fuels, transportation fares, and other items that people buy for day-to-day living. The CPI shown in this publication represents the U.S. city average and is not seasonally adjusted. There is no separate consumer price index for Arkansas.

Labor Force Statistics

Arkansas (Seasonally Adjusted)	January 2004	December 2003	January 2003
Civilian Labor Force	1,307,700	1,311,600	1,298,500
Employment	1,239,900	1,232,400	1,228,400
Unemployment	67,800	79,200	70,100
Rate	5.2	6.0	5.4
Arkansas (Not Seasonally Adjusted)			
Civilian Labor Force	1,286,425	1,245,400	1,253,700
Employment	1,206,350	1,170,500	1,169,800
Unemployment	80,075	74,900	83,900
Rate	6.2	6.0	6.7
Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers			
Civilian Labor Force	173,300	168,425	163,825
Employment	168,000	163,325	158,850
Unemployment	5,300	5,100	4,975
Rate	3.0	3.0	3.0
Fort Smith			
Civilian Labor Force	100,050	97,250	98,275
Employment	94,750	92,075	92,275
Unemployment	5,300	5,175	6,000
Rate	5.3	5.3	6.1
Jonesboro			
Civilian Labor Force	45,400	44,375	43,800
Employment	42,775	41,875	41,400
Unemployment	2,625	2,500	2,400
Rate	5.8	5.6	5.5
Little Rock-North Little Rock			
Civilian Labor Force	315,200	303,325	305,625
Employment	299,900	288,625	289,450
Unemployment	15,300	14,700	16,175
Rate	4.9	4.8	5.3
Pine Bluff			
Civilian Labor Force	36,900	35,775	36,000
Employment	33,600	32,650	32,300
Unemployment	3,300	3,125	3,700
Rate	8.9	8.7	10.3
United States Unemployment Rates:			
Seasonally Adjusted	5.6	5.9	6.0
Not Seasonally Adjusted	6.3	5.6	5.7

Note: MSA data are not seasonally adjusted.



## Pine Bluff Metropolitan Statistical Area

### Seasonal Decline Occurs in January

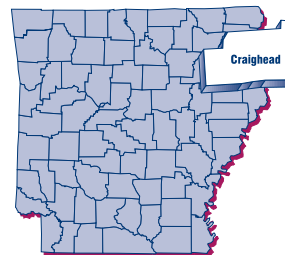
Total nonfarm payroll jobs for the Pine Bluff MSA slipped 600 from December 2003 to January 2004. The decline was attributed to seasonal losses in three major sectors. The largest reductions occurred in trade-transportation-utilities (-200) and government (-300). Education and health services also lost jobs. The end of holiday shopping and continued semester recess attributed to the overall decline in jobs.

Over the year, total nonfarm payroll jobs were up. The 1.4 percent gain (+500 jobs) was tracked to small additions in six major industry sectors.

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

North American Industry Classification	Jan. 04	Dec. 03	Jan. 03
Total Nonfarm	35,500	36,100	35,000
Goods Producing	8,000	8,000	7,800
<b>Natural Resources &amp; Construction</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>800</b>
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>7,100</b>	<b>7,100</b>	<b>7,000</b>
Nondurable Goods	4,500	4,500	4,500
Service Providing	27,500	28,100	27,200
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>6,500</b>	<b>6,700</b>	<b>6,400</b>
Wholesale Trade	1,000	1,000	1,000
Retail Trade	4,100	4,300	4,100
Transportation, Warehouse, & Utilities	1,400	1,400	1,300
<b>Information</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>1,300</b>
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>2,200</b>
<b>Education &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>5,400</b>	<b>5,500</b>	<b>5,300</b>
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>2,200</b>	<b>2,200</b>	<b>2,100</b>
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>1,400</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>8,200</b>	<b>8,500</b>	<b>8,300</b>
Federal Government	1,800	1,800	1,700
State Government	2,900	3,100	3,100
Local Government	3,500	3,600	3,500

## Jonesboro Metropolitan Statistical Area



### Nonfarm Jobs Down 1,000 in January

Nonfarm payroll jobs decreased 1,000 in the Jonesboro MSA at the start of the year. The January total of 40,700 was down as typical just after the winter recess. Trade, transportation and utilities, dropping 400, had the largest decline. Government jobs, down 200, followed with the second largest drop. Four other major industries combined for 400 additional cutbacks.

Latest data for calendar year 2003 showed nonfarm job totals ranging from a low of 40,600 in August to a high of 41,700 posted in November and December.

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

North American Industry Classification	Jan. 04	Dec. 03	Jan. 03
Total Nonfarm	40,700	41,700	40,700
Construction & Mining	2,000	2,100	1,900
Manufacturing	7,500	7,600	7,600
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	7,800	8,200	7,800
Information	600	600	700
Financial Activities	1,500	1,500	1,500
Professional & Business Services	3,100	3,100	3,100
Education & Health Services	6,600	6,700	6,600
Leisure & Hospitality	3,600	3,700	3,500
Other Services	1,500	1,500	1,500
Government	6,500	6,700	6,500

## Fayetteville - Springdale - Rogers Metropolitan Statistical Area



### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

North American Industry Classification	Jan. 04	Dec. 03	Jan. 03
Total Nonfarm	172,500	175,800	167,900
Goods Producing	37,700	38,100	37,800
<b>Natural Resources, Mining, &amp; Construction</b>	<b>7,800</b>	<b>8,100</b>	<b>7,300</b>
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>29,900</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>30,500</b>
Durable Goods	12,400	12,600	12,800
Fabricated Metals	3,600	3,600	3,600
Nondurable Goods	17,500	17,400	17,700
Food	12,400	12,400	12,700
Service Providing	134,800	137,700	130,100
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>43,000</b>	<b>43,600</b>	<b>41,300</b>
Wholesale Trade	8,000	7,900	7,200
Retail Trade	17,700	18,500	17,200
General Merchandise Stores	4,900	5,400	5,100
Transportation, Warehouse, & Utilities	17,300	17,200	16,900
<b>Information</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>2,200</b>
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>6,700</b>	<b>6,700</b>	<b>6,300</b>
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>26,600</b>	<b>27,200</b>	<b>26,400</b>
Employment Services	3,000	3,300	3,200
<b>Education &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>16,000</b>	<b>16,200</b>	<b>15,100</b>
Hospitals	4,700	4,700	4,500
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>13,200</b>	<b>13,800</b>	<b>12,800</b>
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>4,700</b>	<b>4,800</b>	<b>4,700</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>22,300</b>	<b>23,100</b>	<b>21,300</b>
Federal Government	1,900	1,900	1,700
State Government	7,900	8,400	7,500
Local Government	12,500	12,800	12,100

### Year Starts With Seasonal Reductions

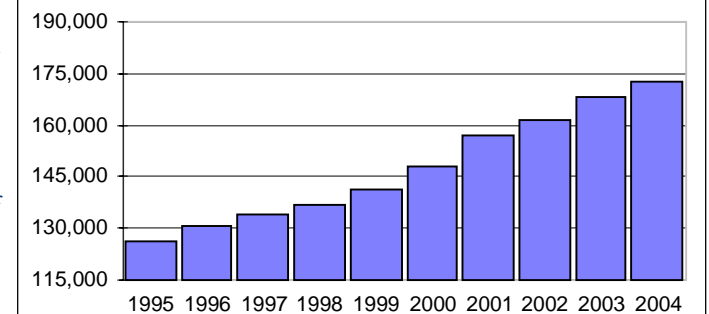
Nonfarm employment in the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA fell 3,300 to 172,500 in January. Eight major sectors had fewer jobs in January than in December.

Government, with seasonal decreases at educational facilities, had the largest decline (-800). Trade-transportation-utilities, professional-business services, and leisure-hospitality had decreases of 600, each.

Over the year, nonfarm payroll jobs were up 4,600, for a growth rate of 2.7 percent. Yearly advances ranged from 100 in information to 1,700 in trade, transportation, and utilities. Manufacturing, with 600 fewer jobs, had the only decrease.

Since January 1995, nonfarm payroll jobs have increased 46,400 from 126,100. This is a gain of 37 percent in nine years.

### Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA Nonfarm Payroll Jobs January: 1995 - 2004

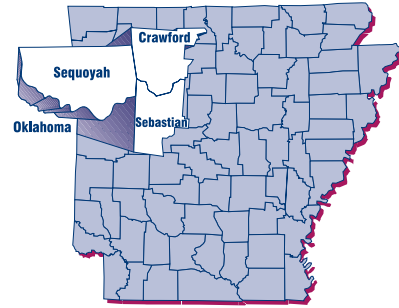


### Hours and Earnings of Production Workers in Manufacturing Industries

	Jan. 04	Dec. 03	Jan. 03
Average Weekly Earnings	\$530.32	\$511.17	\$518.70
Average Weekly Hours	40.7	39.2	39.0
Average Hourly Earnings	\$13.03	\$13.04	\$13.30



# Fort Smith Metropolitan Statistical Area



## Job Numbers Down at Beginning of the Year

Total nonfarm employment for the Fort Smith MSA in January 2004 fell to 98,600, a loss of 1,700 jobs from December 2003. The employment drop was largely due to seasonal decreases in trade-transportation-utilities (-800), government (-300), and leisure-hospitality (-200). Construction, professional-business services, other services, and manufacturing accounted for losses of 100 jobs, each. No sector recorded an increase in employment from December 2003 to January 2004.

Nonfarm payroll jobs in the Fort Smith MSA decreased 300 between January 2003 and January 2004. Declines of 1,400 were recorded in five sectors: professional-business services (-500), education-health services (-400), government (-300), information (-100), and other services (-100). Increases were also recorded in five sectors, combining for 1,100 jobs: trade-transportation-utilities (+400), construction (+300), natural resources-mining (+200), manufacturing (+100), and leisure-hospitality (+100).

## Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

North American Industry Classification	Jan. 04	Dec. 03	Jan. 03
Total Nonfarm	98,600	100,300	98,900
Goods Producing	31,300	31,500	30,700
<b>Natural Resources &amp; Mining</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>800</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>4,600</b>	<b>4,700</b>	<b>4,300</b>
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>25,700</b>	<b>25,800</b>	<b>25,600</b>
Durable Goods	14,800	14,900	15,100
Electrical Equipment	6,200	6,200	6,000
Nondurable Goods	10,900	10,900	10,500
Food	7,500	7,500	6,900
Service Providing	67,300	68,800	68,200
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>19,600</b>	<b>20,400</b>	<b>19,200</b>
Wholesale Trade	3,200	3,300	3,200
Retail Trade	10,800	11,400	10,700
General Merchandise Stores	3,400	3,600	3,300
Transportation, Warehouse, & Utilities	5,600	5,700	5,300
Truck Transportation	4,100	4,200	3,700
<b>Information</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>1,700</b>
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>3,600</b>	<b>3,600</b>	<b>3,600</b>
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>9,100</b>	<b>9,200</b>	<b>9,600</b>
Employment Services	3,900	3,800	4,300
<b>Education &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>12,600</b>	<b>12,600</b>	<b>13,000</b>
Health Care & Social Assistance	12,300	12,300	12,500
Hospitals	4,400	4,400	4,900
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>6,900</b>	<b>7,100</b>	<b>6,800</b>
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>2,700</b>	<b>2,800</b>	<b>2,800</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>11,200</b>	<b>11,500</b>	<b>11,500</b>
Federal Government	1,200	1,300	1,300
State Government	1,800	2,000	1,800
Local Government	8,200	8,200	8,400

## Hours & Earnings of Production Workers

### Manufacturing Industries

	January 04	December 03	January 03
Average Weekly Earnings	\$509.91	\$555.94	\$579.33
Average Weekly Hours	38.6	41.8	41.0
Average Hourly Earnings	\$13.21	\$13.30	\$14.13

# Little Rock - North Little Rock Metropolitan Statistical Area



## Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

North American Industry Classification	Jan. 04	Dec. 03	Jan. 03
Total Nonfarm	314,600	318,000	312,900
Goods Producing	40,500	41,100	41,300
<b>Natural Resources, Mining, &amp; Construction</b>	<b>16,500</b>	<b>16,800</b>	<b>16,300</b>
Special Trade Contractors	9,400	9,500	9,400
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>24,000</b>	<b>24,300</b>	<b>25,000</b>
Durable Goods	14,700	14,900	15,300
Fabricated Metals	3,000	3,000	3,100
Computer & Electronic Equipment	2,300	2,500	2,200
Transportation Equipment	3,200	3,300	3,200
Nondurable Goods	9,300	9,400	9,700
Service Providing	274,100	276,900	271,600
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>66,400</b>	<b>68,700</b>	<b>66,800</b>
Wholesale Trade	15,700	15,800	15,800
Retail Trade	34,100	36,200	34,000
Food & Beverage Stores	4,600	4,600	4,600
General Merchandise Stores	8,000	8,900	7,400
Transportation, Warehouse, & Utilities	16,600	16,700	17,000
<b>Information</b>	<b>9,300</b>	<b>9,400</b>	<b>9,300</b>
Telecommunications	5,200	5,200	5,100
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>19,600</b>	<b>19,600</b>	<b>19,000</b>
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>38,400</b>	<b>38,300</b>	<b>38,800</b>
Computer Systems	5,000	5,000	5,200
Employment Services	7,800	8,800	7,800
<b>Education &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>40,600</b>	<b>41,100</b>	<b>39,600</b>
Hospitals	12,600	12,600	12,500
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>24,400</b>	<b>24,400</b>	<b>23,400</b>
Food Services	18,600	19,000	18,500
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>11,800</b>	<b>11,800</b>	<b>11,900</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>63,600</b>	<b>63,600</b>	<b>62,800</b>
Federal Government	9,300	9,400	9,300
State Government	29,300	29,200	28,700
Local Government	25,000	25,000	24,800

## Reductions Posted for Start of the Year

Seasonal factors were largely to blame for the drop of 3,400 nonfarm payroll jobs in the Little Rock-North Little Rock MSA between December 2003 and January 2004. Jobs in the trade, transportation, utilities sector were trimmed by 2,300. These reductions were primarily traced to normal cutbacks in retail trade at the close of the holiday shopping season.

Although professional and business services gained 100 overall, the employment services category declined 1,000 between months. Major industry decreases in the service providing sector combined with layoffs of 600 in the goods producing industries produced a significant downturn for the nonfarm payroll employment segment.

Despite month-to-month losses, the nonfarm total gained over the January 2003 count. Largest additions occurred in education and health services and leisure and hospitality.

## Hours and Earnings of Production Workers

	Manufacturing Industries			Durable Goods Industries		
	Jan. 04	Dec. 03	Jan. 03	Jan. 04	Dec. 03	Jan. 03
Average Weekly Earnings	\$600.06	\$586.08	\$562.07	\$612.37	\$583.80	\$561.09
Average Weekly Hours	42.8	42.5	40.7	43.4	42.0	39.1
Average Hourly Earnings	\$14.02	\$13.79	\$13.81	\$14.11	\$13.90	\$14.35